

RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT OF CHRISTCHURCH.

Report of Medical Officer of Health for year 1925
TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
CHRISTCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

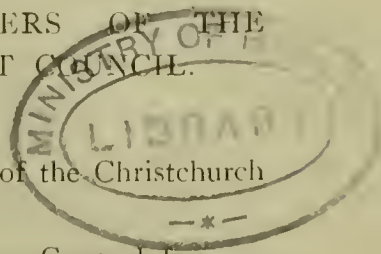
I beg to submit to you my Annual Report of the Christchurch Rural Sanitary District for the year 1925.

POPULATION estimated by the Registrar-General for
year 1925 5,605

The number of births and deaths are those registered during the calendar year, and are corrected for inward and outward transfers. The causes of death in the district relate to civilians only. The total number of births belonging to the district was 87—males 52, females 35 (legitimate 85, illegitimate 2)—and, calculated upon the population 5,605, gives the birth-rate 15.5 per 1,000 of the population as against 16.4 during the year 1924, and against 18.3 for England and Wales during the year 1925. The number of deaths belonging to the district was 65—males 31, females 34—and, calculated upon the above population, gives the death-rate 11.5 per 1,000 of the population, as against 12.8 during the year 1924, and against 12.2 for England and Wales during 1925. The 'natural increase of the population—i.e., the balance between natality and mortality—was 22, as against 20 during the year 1924. All the deaths were certified. No deaths "under two years" were attributed to diarrhoea and enteritis during the year. No woman died in, or in consequence of, childbirth during the year.

INFANT MORTALITY, measured by the proportion of deaths under one year of age to registered births. Seven deaths occurred during the year (2 deaths were illegitimate) as against 8 during the year 1924, and gives the infant death-rate 80 per 1,000, as against 87.9 during the year 1924, and against 75 for England and Wales during the year 1925. Three of the deaths "under one year" were attributed to premature births, 2 to convulsions, and 2 to influenza.

CANCER accounted for 12 deaths, as against 6 deaths during the year 1924.



TUBERCULOSIS.—Seven notifications were received during the year, all of the respiratory system, 3 on Form A and 4 on Form D. One death was due to tuberculosis of the respiratory system. A certain proportion of senile bronchitics and asthmatics may be disseminators of tubercle bacilli, and it would be well if in every case of senile bronchitis the sputum were examined.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES.—Examination of sputum, etc., at County Laboratory, sanatorium treatment, attendance at the Dispensary, Brockenhurst, provision of shelters and disinfectant, supply of sputum flasks, disinfection of infected rooms and all articles exposed to infection after death or change of residence, visitation of infected houses, and appropriate instructions given as to the preventive measures to be adopted. Institutional treatment has its chief purpose in education, and should be limited to a brief period of tuition in the manner of life suitable to the tuberculous individual, with one proviso: that the individual, having learned what manner of life he should lead, returns to conditions where he can carry it out. The most reliable preventive measures, in my opinion, are good housing and good food well cooked.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Sixteen cases were notified in fifteen houses.

SCARLET FEVER.—Eight cases were notified in seven houses, and five cases were removed to Hospital.

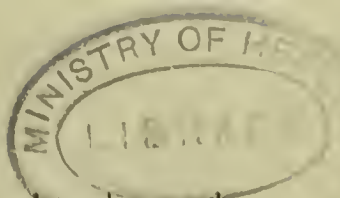
DIPHTHERIA.—Two cases were notified and one was admitted to hospital. These occurred in separate houses.

ERYSIPELAS.—Two cases were notified in 2 houses

PNEUMONIA.—Four cases were notified in 4 houses. Two cases proved fatal.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—No case was notified.

INFLUENZA.—Three deaths were attributed to the disease during the year, as against 6 deaths in 1924. The preventive measures in operation in the district are: Removal to hospital, isolation at home, quarantine and bacteriological examination of contacts, exclusion of children from school, and school closure. Detailed instructions were given by me to heads of infected households, and to head teachers as to the appropriate measures to be



taken to prevent spread of infection. I notified head teachers and Sanitary Inspector of each infected household. The School Medical Officer issued to head teachers "Form "H.6A" to notify the Medical Officer of Health of infectious disease occurring among school children. The diseases notified were influenza, measles, chicken-pox, mumps and whooping-cough. I visited schools, and homes of children notified to be suffering from chicken-pox, and took appropriate action. Disinfection of rooms and all articles exposed to infection by the Sanitary Inspector, supply of disinfectants, and rectification of sanitary defects. The method of disinfection in operation is: All linen and other washable articles are saturated with a spray of (1—50) formalin, and left for 12 hours, then rinsed in cold water, and finally washed in boiling water. The pillows, mattress, and carpets (unless soiled by infective discharges: then burned) are well sprayed with the formalin solution. After measures of disinfecting a room have been taken, the wall paper (especially if soiled, torn or loose) is stripped from the walls and burned. The room has its ceiling thoroughly washed or limewashed. The floor and all woodwork are also washed with soap and water.

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.—I inspected each school, nine in all. Two schools were closed owing to the prevalence of influenza among school children. The sanitary defects found at three schools were: Uncleanliness of sanitary accommodation, Bye-law 57 not complied with, want of means of constant ventilation in cloak-rooms, a proper lavatory and dustbin required, urinals offensive; and sanitary paper was not provided at four schools. Garments of children from verminous households require to be separated from those of non-verminous children in the cloak-rooms. Children under five years of age should be excluded from school during the prevalence of infectious disease. Much can be done to prevent the spread of infection by due attention to the sanitation and ventilation of schoolrooms and cloak-rooms. Frequent and thorough washing of class-rooms and cloak-rooms is an efficient means of removing both dust and infection. Dry sweeping, on the other hand, tends to scatter dust. Medical inspection of school children is carried out by the County Medical Officer. The health reformers tell us that the state of the children's teeth is a national scandal, and they are calling for a good dental service. Little headway will be made towards the banishment of dental disease unless the simple rules of prevention are inculcated. But

are teachers instructed to see that children come to school with clean teeth; and do they insist, as far as they can, on their instructions being obeyed?

BAKEHOUSES.—I inspected eight bakehouses, and 2 required to be cleansed and limewashed.

COWSHEDS.—I inspected 31 cowsheds: 17 were in an unsatisfactory sanitary condition. The principal sanitary defects discovered were want of cleanliness and proper overalls. Sheds were not constructed in compliance with the Regulations.

MILK-SHOPS.—I inspected 2 milk-shops. They were clean, and the vessels containing milk in the shops were covered.

MILK-STORES.—I inspected 2 milk-stores. The milk stored in one was in uncovered churns, the floor was uneven, and waste-water was "backed up" on the floor and in the channel. The cesspool was within the prescribed distance of milk-store, and the contents were pumped on adjoining ground.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—I inspected 1 slaughter-house. Proper receptacle for offal was required. The notice was not affixed. No action was taken under Section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875. No carcass, or parts of a carcass, were condemned for tuberculosis.

ICE-CREAM.—I inspected the premises of an ice-cream vendor. The utensils used in the preparation of ice-cream were clean.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—Ten samples were taken during the year. Nine were genuine, and one was unsatisfactory, namely, new milk. No case of food-poisoning came to my knowledge during the year. These Acts are administered by the County Council.

CANNED FOODS.—It is only by efficient sterilisation that any food-stuff can be rendered absolutely safe when preserved. The temperature required raises the point whether the containers themselves will stand the heat required, particularly if made of glass. The advantages of tins are that they are cheaper, they are more readily sterilised with less risk of damage or fracture, and it

is easier to make them hermetically tight; therefore the risk of harmful bacterial infection, including botulism, is decidedly less if tin containers are given the preference to glass. No application was made for licences permitting the use of the designations, "Grade A (Certified) Milk" and "Grade A Milk." There is no scheme in operation for the supply of milk to expectant mothers and nursing mothers and children under five. For consumption in industrial towns there is much to be said for the use of pasteurised milk, but pasteurisation cannot make dirty milk clean: to be wholesome and to have keeping properties the milk must itself be clean.

THE WATER SUPPLY of the District is derived from wells and waterworks; the latter supply is constant.

THE FOLLOWING REPORT was submitted to the District Council by request:—"The low death-rate, the low infectious disease rate, the absence of enteric fever and diarrhoeal diseases, the absence of any special incidence of disease in the parish, and the result of my inspections, is proof that the parish of Highcliffe is in a good sanitary condition. But this must not lull one into a false sense of security, especially now with a greater influx of visitors, Girl Guides, Scouts camps, etc. The more urban parts of the parish require constant supervision and frequent periodic inspection to ensure the prompt removal of faecal matter, and house refuse and the cleansing of surfaces—i.e., scavenging—must be efficient. On the formation of any camp for children or young persons, in my opinion, steps should be taken to ensure that a highly trained and experienced nurse should be on the staff; also that, previous to the formation of the camps, arrangements be made (by the persons responsible) for the isolation and treatment of infectious disease which may occur."

GIPSY ENCAMPMENT.—I advised the Council to enforce the Bye-laws relating to tents, vans, sheds, and similar structures.

The drainage of one of the chief cowsheds was reconstructed in accordance with the Regulations during the year.

I made 75 visits of inspection in various parts of the District; these are exclusive of re-visits to infected houses and schools, etc. Other sanitary defects discovered and reported to the District Council were: A case of overcrowding, the drainage of 4 houses delivered to one cesspool which was overflowing: e.c.'s, soil-pipe ventilators, waste-water pipe and cesspool not constructed in com-

pliance with the Bye-laws. A wash-up house at a dairy was dilapidated and dangerous. There is a shortage of houses of modest size to meet the requirements of the weekly wage-earner. So long as any section of the population is badly housed, the country cannot rest satisfied. The house is a matter that touches the comfort of every man and woman, and the welfare of the children.

No action was taken during the year under Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, or "Rat & Mice" Order. Whatever else is done, at least all store-places of food should be rat-proofed.

Notification of Births Act, Maternity and Child Welfare Act, Midwives Act, Venereal Diseases Act, 1917, are administered by the County Council. A summary of work carried out by Sanitary Inspector during the year is appended to the report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. LLOYD LEGATE,

Medical Officer of Health.

27th June, 1926.

CHRISTCHURCH RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1925.
Population estimated by the Registrar-General has been used for the purposes of this Table.

Birth-rate per 1000	Total Population	Population 5605	Annual Death-rate per 1000 Civilian Population.										Rate per 1000 Births		Percentage of Total Deaths				
			All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Heart Disease	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years	Total Deaths under one year	Causes of Death Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death		
15.5			11.5	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.53	2.1	0.17	5.00	80.0	98.46	1.54	0.0

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925, for
the Rural District of Christchurch.**

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	—	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	73	12	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total	73	12	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosec- utions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	14	14	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ..	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	5	4	—	—
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ..	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse (s. 101) ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Work- shops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total	19	18	—	—

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.

NIL.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Samples taken during the year ended 31st December, 1925,
in the Rural District of Christchurch.

Article	Genuine	Unsatisfactory	Article	Genuine	Unsatisfactory
Arrowroot ..		1 (informal)	Laudanum ..		
Baking Powder ..			Malt Vinegar ..		
Beer ..			Margarine ..		
Bread ..			Milk of Sulphur ..		
Butter ..	3 (informal)		Mustard ..		
Camphorated Oil ..			Milk ..		
Castor Oil ..			New Milk ..	1	*1
Cheese ..			Sep. Milk ..		
Citric Acid ..			Nitre, Spirit of ..		
Cocoa ..			Paregoric ..		
Coffee ..	1 (informal)		Pepper ..		
Condensed Milk ..			Prunes ..		
Cream ..	1 (informal)		Quinine, Sulphate of ..	1 (informal)	
Cream of Tartar ..			Rhubarb, Tincture of		
Demerara Sugar ..			Rum ..		
Egg Powder ..			Sal Volatile ..		
Flour ..			Seidlitz Powders ..		
Flour, Self-raising ..	1 (informal)		Skim Milk ..		
Gregory Powder ..	1 (informal)		Sugar ..		
Golden Syrup ..			Sweets ..		
Ground Ginger ..			Tea ..		
Honey ..			Vinegar ..		
Ice Cream ..			Whiskey ..		
Jam ..					
Lard ..		1 (informal)	TOTAL ..	10 (9 informal)	1

*6 % deficient in Milk Fat

R. A. LYSTER,
County Medical Officer.

1st March, 1926.

Tabular Summary of the work of the Sanitary Department during the year 1925, and action taken under the Public Health Acts or Bye-laws.

WATER SUPPLY.

Complaints received and attended to	6
Number of inspections made re water supply	35
Wells found defective and liable to pollution	9
Defective wells remedied	8
New wells sunk	8
Samples of water taken for analysis	4
Samples of water condemned as unfit	1
Notices served:—Formal, 1; informal, 8	total 9
Notices complied with:—Formal, 1; informal, 7	total 8

NUISANCES.

Complaints received and attended to	17
Number of inspections made	273
Nuisances and defects found	74
Nuisances and defects abated	69
Notices served:—Formal, 5; informal, 62	total 67
Notices complied with:—Formal, 5; informal, 54	total 59

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Enquiries made for reports to M.O.H.	9
Patients removed to Hospital	6
Remises disinfected after notifiable disease	17
Premises disinfected for other causes	3
Schools disinfected	0

SCHOOLS.

Number of inspections made	16
Nuisances or defects remedied on informal notice	5

CAMPS, VANS AND TENTS.

Number of inspections made	30
Nuisances detected and abated on informal notice	6

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, & MILK-SHOPS ORDERS.

MILK & DAIRIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1922.

No. of persons registered: Wholesale purveyor of milk...	79
Retail purveyor of milk	26
—	105
No. of inspections made	130
Nuisances detected	14
Nuisances re uncleanness of walls, etc.	36
Notices served:—Formal, 8; informal, 42	total 50
Notices complied with:—Formal, 7; informal, 35	total 42

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

No. on register: Bakehouses, 8; other work places, 59	total	67
No. of inspections made...	...	73
Nuisances detected and remedied	...	5
Nuisances re uncleanliness of walls, etc.	...	14
Notices served:—Formal, 1; informal, 18	total	19
Notices complied with:—Formal, 1; informal, 17	total	18

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND FOOD SHOPS.

No. of slaughter-houses:—Registered, 3; licenced, 5	total	8
No. of inspections made	...	153
Nuisances detected	...	14
Seizures of unwholesome food	...	0
Notices served:—Formal, 0; informal, 14	total	14
Notices complied with:—Formal, 0; informal, 14	total	14

HOUSING AND BUILDING BYE-LAWS.

No. of plans deposited and approved for new dwellings	141
do. do. do. for alterations or additions	7
do. do. do. for other buildings	5
do. do. do. for new roads	1
do. do. but disapproved or cancelled	6
Total number of plans	160
New dwellings completed during 1925	111
do. in course of erection, 31st December, 1925	43
do. work not started, 31st December, 1925	30
Inspections made during erection of buildings	977
No. of tests made of new or altered drainage systems	58

J. CHRISTIE,

Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

No. of houses erected during the year	...	111
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:		
(i.) By the Local Authority	...	0
(ii.) By other bodies or persons	...	0

1.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection: (1) Total no. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	106
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(2) No. of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations, 1910, or the Consolidated Regulations, 1925	21
(3) No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4) No. of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	56
2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.	
No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the L.A. or their officers	23
3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.	
A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.	
(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	19
(2) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—(a) By owners	19
(b) By L.A.	0
(3) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative on declaration of owner of intention to close	1
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) No. of notices served requiring defects of houses to be remedied	36
(2) No. of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—(a) By owners	8
(b) By L.A. in default of owners	0
C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.	
(1) No. of representations made with a view to making Closing Orders	2
(2) No. of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(3) No. of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined	0
(4) No. of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(5) No. of houses demolished, by consent	1

